A LETTER

FROM

Sir *Anthony Ashly Cooper*, *Thomas Scot*, *John Berners*, and *John Weaver*, Esqs. delivered to the Lord *Fleetwood*:

Owning their late Actions in endeavouring to Secure the Tower *of* London; *and Expostulating his Lordships Defection from his Engagement unto the* Parliament.

SIR,

UNderstanding you have received some disturbance of late, in examining divers persons, about a Design to Surprize the Tower; to save your further trouble, We do hereby freely own our

utmoſt and hearty endeavours to have put that place into more faithful and confiding Hands, and that by Authority from the Council of State, who at the paſſing of that Reſolve, had the ſole Legal Power from the *Parliament*, of Ordering, Directing and Diſpoſing of all the Gariſons and Forces of this Commonwealth, both by Sea and Land; an Action ſo Honeſt and Honourable, as would not only have given check to your Exorbitances at *Wallingford-houſe* and *Whitehall*, but was moſt neceſſary to the preſerving the Peace and Safety of this great City, by giving advantage to them, to put themſelves into a regular poſture of Defence, and ſuch an encouragement to the ſober party amongſt them, as would (through God's mercy) have utterly defeated the Deſigns of the Common Enemy.

Sir,

Sir, Let us tell you, This Design was not so vain, but that we had (by the blessing of God) possest that place some weeks since, had we not been frustrated by our mistake in the courage and fidelity of a person, whose opportunity, interest and duty, (if not principles) gave us better hopes: But in this Age we are to complain and wonder at nothing; yet we cannot but highly resent the Confidence of sending for one of our number by a party of Souldiers, as if Red-coats and Muskets were a *Non Obstante* to all Law and publick Priviledge; not as if that person or any of us are affraid or ashamed to own the Enterprize before any that have a lawful Authority to demand an account of it, which we are sure no Single-person, *Junto*, or Pack of Men at *White-hall*, or *Wallingford-house* have a pretence to.

Sir, We have the Witness with our

own ſpirits, that we have, and do cordially wiſh the preſervation and good of You and your Family; but if the Lord hath ſaid, You ſhall not hearken, but be hardned in your way, we muſt acquieſce in His Providence, and with ſorrow look upon that Ruine which is flowing in upon you, as upon one in whom we thought we had ſeen ſome good.

Sir, Conſider that in the day of trouble, which is certainly comming upon you, what ſupport you will have to your ſpirit, when you ſhall be aſſaulted with the Shame you have brought upon God's people, with the breach of Faith to the *Parliament*, from whom you received your Commiſſion, with the Ruine you have brought upon your native Country (unleſs the Lord by His own almighty Arme prevent it) and with the Miſery you have led the poor Souldiers into; who,

who, inſtead of being the inſtruments of ſecuring and ſettling the Peace and Liberty of theſe Nations, enjoying the honour and quiet thereof, their Arrears fully paid, future Pay and Advancement ſetled and eſtabliſhed, in order, and with the bleſſing of their Countreymen, are now become the inſtruments of Nine Men's ambition, have made the whole Nation their Enemies, and are expoſed again to the hardſhip and hazard of a new unnatural VVar, without proſpect of ever hoping that the iſſue of theſe affairs can leave their new Maſters ſo rich (though conquerers) as to ſatisfy their Arrears, or ſo ſecure as to truſt preferment in any hands but ſuch whoſe fanatick principles, or perſonal relations makes them irreconcileable to the publick Intereſt: But God (we truſt) hath raiſed up a Deliverer, having by admirable Providence put an

opportunity and power into the hands of General *Monck*, the ableſt and moſt experienced Commander of theſe Nations, whom He hath alſo ſpirited to ſtand firm for the Intereſt of this Commonwealth, as well againſt a rebellious party of our own Forces, as the deſignes of the common Enemy (notwithſtanding all cauſleſs and falſe aſperſions maliciouſly caſt upon him) being warranted in his preſent Actings by ſpecial Commiſsion and Authority from the Council of State, whereas yours is that only of the Sword. Our Prayers and earneſt Requeſt for you and all honeſt men amongſt you, are, that you may timely joyn with him, and partake of the honour and bleſsing of his Actions; and your true Repentance ſhall be a greater rejoycing then your Defection hath been a trouble. VVhen Providence ſhall have ſeparated the Precious

from

from the Vile, and not have ſuffered our Scum to boyl in, but ſhall have placed the Sword and Civil Authority in the hands of Men of the beſt and ſobereſt Principles.

Sir, Be not ſo far deceived, as to think ſober men ſee not through the Mask of this ſtrange new Parliament, whoſe Liberty and Safety, either of meeting or debating muſt be at your pleaſures, who having taken upon you, to be Conſervators of the Cauſe, will only make uſe of them as your Aſſeſſours and Tax-gatherers: The preſent interrupted Parliament being the ſole Lawful Authority, and which can only be hoped to make the Sword ſubſervient to the Civil Intereſt, and ſettle the Government in the hands of the People, by ſucceſsive and free Parliaments, lawfully derived to them.

Sir,

Sir, We have in ſincerity given you our ſence, and ſhall leave you to Him that diſpoſes of all mens hearts, and remain,

Decemb. 16. 1659.

Your Servants, ſo far as you ſhall be found to ſerve the Publick,

Anth. Aſhley Cooper.
Thomas Scot.
Jo. Berners.
John Weaver.

For the Lord *Fletwood*, late Lieutenant General of the Army.

FINIS.